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Curios and Relics

Toys & Games

Model of Carriage Used by Lincoln before Assassination

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

MESSMORE & DAMON INC.

Designers and Builders of Exhibits and Displays

530 WEST 28TH STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10001

October 29, 1980

Lincoln National Life
1300 South Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Attention: Mr. Ian M. Rolland

Dear Mr. Rolland:

LINCOLN LIFE

Referred to *Dr. Kelly*

REC'D NOV 08 1980

Answered _____

Office of Ian M. Rolland

I saw your ad and the name Lincoln rang a bell.

I have available a very fine scale model of Abraham Lincoln in his State carriage, approximately 6' long overall. It includes two well sculptured horses with genuine leather harness made to scale. Lincoln and the coachmen are wood carved to perfection. The carriage itself is accurately reproduced.

This model was part of the History of Transportation Show executed by the late G.H. Messmore over fifty years ago. It is of museum quality and would be most appropriate for a solid institution such as yours.

I'm enclosing herewith a booklet containing a picture of it. However, if you are interested I can take color pictures of it and send you further particulars.

I look forward to the prospect of hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Francis B. Messmore

FBM:ot

Incl/

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S STATE CARRIAGE

Differing somewhat in simplicity from the elaborately ornamented coaches popularly used in those days, was the coach of President Lincoln.

This unpretentious carriage, identifying itself with the modesty of Abraham Lincoln, was presented to him by the Merchants of New York on the occasion of his first inauguration.

It was used by the beloved President in his trips around Washington during Civil War days. He occupied it for the last time on the night of his assassination, in Ford's Theatre, Washington, April 14, 1865.

In this unit the great Emancipator is shown seated in his coach, with his negro coachman, escorted by five cavalymen, and in the background can be seen the Capitol at Washington (in an unfinished state, as it was during his administration) with the scaffolding still around the dome.

This carriage of Abe Lincoln is now the property of the Studebaker Corporation of America, where it is on display in their Museum of Transportation, South Bend, Indiana.



MESSMORE & DAMON INC.

Designers and Builders of Exhibits and Displays

530 WEST 28TH STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10001

November 25, 1980

Mr. Mark E. Neely, Jr.
The Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library & Museum
1300 South Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Dear Mr. Neely:

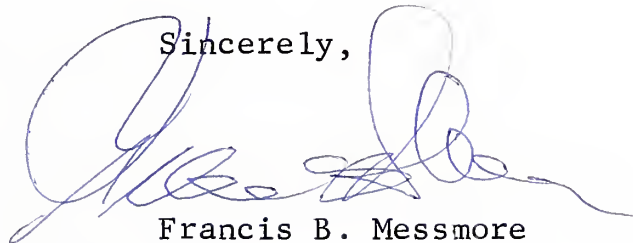
This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of
November 18th regarding our scale model of President
Lincoln's Inaugural carriage.

It is in first grade condition and is definitely of
Museum quality. I will take a number of Polaroid
pictures including closeups, which will give you a
better indication of its condition.

We are asking \$2,500.00 for the complete unit.

If you have occasion to be in New York, I would be
happy to show it to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. B. Messmore', with a large, stylized initial 'F' and a long, sweeping underline.

Francis B. Messmore

FBM:dh

MESSMORE & DAMON INC.

Designers and Builders of Exhibits and Displays

530 WEST 28TH STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10001

December 3, 1980

Mr. Mark E. Neely, Jr.
The Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library & Museum
1300 South Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Dear Mr. Neely:

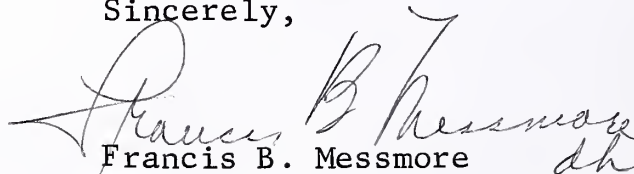
I am writing you pursuant to my previous letter of November 25th regarding the Lincoln carriage.

I promised that I would take a number of Polaroid pictures including some close-ups and here they are.

I call your attention to the wood carved heads of Lincoln and the coachman. Also note the detailed work on the horse and carriage. I am also including pictures of models of negro slaves which were part of a riverboat diorama. You may find them of interest.

If you have any questions re the Lincoln carriage, please feel free to let me know.

Sincerely,


Francis B. Messmore dh

FBM:dh

MESSMORE & DAMON INC.

Designers and Builders of Exhibits and Displays

530 WEST 28TH STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10001

December 23, 1980

Mr. Mark E. Neely, Jr.
The Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library & Museum
1300 South Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Dear Mr. Neely:

I wrote you almost a month ago regarding the Lincoln Carriage which I thought would be of interest to the Lincoln Library and Museum.

I would appreciate hearing as to whether or not the Museum is interested in same.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,


Francis B. Messmore

FBM:vj

Messmore

March 19, 1981

Mr. Francis B. Messmore
Messmore & Damon, Inc.
530 West 28th Street
New York, New York 10001

Dear Mr. Messmore:

The assembling and opening of our first loan exhibit in Washington, D.C., and numerous lecture appearances in February prevented me from doing the work necessary to assess our ability to use the carriage model. It appears to be too large for our present exhibit space. We have essentially a permanent exhibit. We are able to add small things to it--books, documents, artifacts--from time to time, but so large an item would have required planning from the start of our new museum.

I am returning your photographs with many thanks for your interest in our collection.

Sincerely yours,

Mark E. Neely, Jr.

MEN/jaf
Enclosures - 14 photos.

MESSMORE & DAMON INC.

Designers and Builders of Exhibits and Displays

530 WEST 28TH STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10001

March 27, 1981

The Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum
1300 South Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Attention: Mr. Mark E. Neely, Jr.

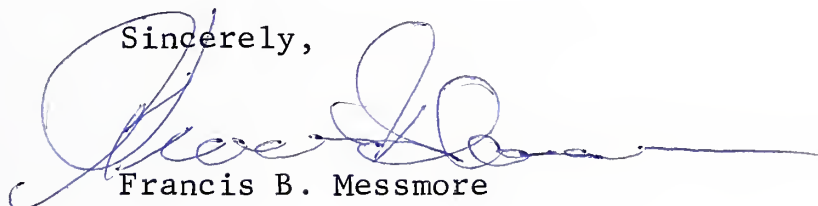
Dear Mr. Neely:

This will acknowledge receipt of your March 19th letter.

I am sorry to learn that your space would not accommodate
the Lincoln Carriage which we have been corresponding about.

In the event that the situation changes, please feel free
to let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Francis B. Messmore', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Francis B. Messmore

FBM:vj



